



## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

### JUDICIAL PROCEDURES COMMISSION

383 Hall of Administration / 500 West Temple Street / Los Angeles, California 90012 / (213) 974-1431

### MINUTES OF THE 665th MEETING OF THE JUDICIAL PROCEDURES COMMISSION

The 665th meeting of the Los Angeles County Judicial Procedures Commission was held on August 18, 2005, in Room 140 at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California. A list of those in attendance follows:

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Bertrum M. CeDillos, Chair  
Andrew Friedman  
Ann Jackson  
Thomas J. Jeffers  
Robbi J. Work

#### **MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Clifton Albright, Vice Chair  
Lee Kanon Alpert  
Nelson L. Atkins  
Walter Coombs  
William J. Galloway  
Neal Millard  
Carol Rose  
Sylvia Scott-Hayes

Bertrum M. CeDillos  
*Chair*

Clifton W. Albright  
*Vice Chair*

Lee Kanon Alpert  
Nelson L. Atkins  
Walter P. Coombs  
Andrew Friedman  
William J. Galloway  
Ann Jackson  
Thomas J. Jeffers  
Neal S. Millard  
Carol L. Rose  
Sylvia Scott-Hayes  
Robbi J. Work

#### **EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**

Heather Aubry, City of Los Angeles  
Laura Green, Public Defender's Office  
Larry Mason, District Attorney's Office  
Capt. Sam Dacus, LA County Sheriff's Department

#### **COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES**

Darby Chen, Superior Court  
Bea Dieringer, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office  
Michael P. Karsh, LA City Council  
Dr. Margaret Little, Superior Court  
Honorable John H. Sandoz, Superior Court  
Peggy Shuttleworth, Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee  
Zoe Venhuizen, Superior Court

#### **STAFF**

Jim Corbett  
Dedie Ward  
Audra Galang

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair CeDillos called the 665th regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Judicial Procedures Commission (JPC) to order at 12:35 p.m.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Jeffers was asked to lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Introductions of the Commissioners, Ex-Officio Members, Staff and Guests followed.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chair CeDillos announced that Vice Chair Albright was recently injured in a motorcycle accident. He is currently doing fine but is expected to be recuperating for several months. The Commission and Ex Officio members extended their well wishes to Vice Chair Albright for a speedy recovery.

### **GUEST SPEAKER – COMMISSIONER WORK, SUPERVISING COUNTY COUNSEL OF DEPARTMENT 414, CHILDREN'S COURT**

Chair CeDillos introduced and welcomed Commissioner Work, who has been a member of the Commission since 1992, and offered background information on Commissioner Work's educational achievements, professional career, and honors, and noted that she has also run in and successfully completed nine marathons.

Commissioner Work is the Supervising County Counsel of Division 414, Children's Services Division of the County Counsel. She has been with the Department for thirteen years and is fulfilled by the work that she does although it is quite challenging and can be very difficult at times. Commissioner Work stated that she attended law school with the goal to practice child abuse litigation and she will continue to do so until she retires.

The Children's Services Division of the County Counsel provides legal representation for the Board of Supervisors and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) in cases relating to the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children in the County of Los Angeles. The Division has 105 attorneys which is the largest within the office of the County Counsel, and generates the most revenue for the County.

There are approximately two thousand Social Workers who work in the field, maintain caseloads, and are responsible for the safety of the abused children in Los Angeles County. In addition, there are approximately three thousand other employees who handle the daily operational processes and functions.

The Children's Court was opened in 1992 to solely handle cases relating to the welfare, safety, and abuse of children. More than 1000 new cases of child abuse come into the Court system each month, with cases ranging from the abuse/neglect of a child to the death of a child. Many cases also run concurrent with District Attorney or Criminal Court cases.

Today, the average caseload for each attorney is 250 as opposed to 650 cases per attorney 13 years ago. Although the number of cases is down, the abuse today is more severe. DCFS is attempting to reduce the number of new cases that come into the system through methods which includes family preservation, early detection and intervention, education, family counseling, ready access to available services, and public awareness.

Following a question and answer period, Commissioner Work gave an overview on the types of cases that she handles. Chair CeDillos then thanked Commissioner Work for her presentation.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JULY 21, 2005**

The approval for the Minutes of the July 21, 2005 meeting was postponed due to the lack of a quorum.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Peggy Shuttleworth gave an update on the status of the grant request for the Child Custody Exchange program stating that she received verbal confirmation that the program will be funded for one year, but does not know when the funds will be allocated. The fiscal year for the Department of Justice begins October 1, 2005 and it may be at that time the funds will be distributed.

In the interim, the Committee will continue to develop operational procedures for the proposed exchange sites. Bea Dieringer commended Ms. Shuttleworth for her commitment and hard work in the preparation and submission of the grant application.

**MATTERS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA**

There were none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

The next meeting of the Judicial Procedures Commission is scheduled for Thursday, September 15, 2005.